

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/777,897

Examiner

Linh M. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

TANIGUCHI, NOBUTAKA

Art Unit

2816

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 04/03/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3,4 and 6-8.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>04/20/06</u> |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This is a reply to the Applicant's amendment submitted on 04/03/2006. According to this amendment, claims 1-2 and 5 are cancelled; thus, claims 3-4 and 6-8 are currently presented in the instant application.

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Rhonda Barton on 04/20/2006.

The Examiner's Amendment includes:

CLAIMS:

Claims 4, 6 and 7: line 4, in front of "second", replacing "input" with --output--.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 3-4 and 6-8 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art fails to disclose or fairly suggest:

- a) A delay time adjusting method including a step of adjusting a delay time of the input first periodic signal so that a phase of the input first periodic signal and a phase of the output

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second periodic signal match within a predetermined tolerance, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations, as called for in claim 3;

b) A delay time adjusting method including a second step of increasing the delay time to adjust a phase of an output second periodic signal so that, when the phase of a predetermined rising edge is judged to be behind the phase of the first rising edge in the first step, the phase of the predetermined rising edge and a phase of a second rising edge of the input first periodic signal match each other, the second rising edge being one period behind the first rising edge, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations, as called for in claim 4;

c) A delay time adjusting circuit for adjusting a delay time of an input periodic signal including a delaying circuit for adjusting said delay time so that, when the phase of a predetermined rising edge of an output second periodic signal is judged to be behind the phase of the predetermined rising edge of the input first periodic signal by a judging means, the predetermined rising edge of the output second periodic signal matches a rising edge of the input first periodic signal, a phase of the rising edge being behind and nearest to the phase of the predetermined rising edge of the output second periodic signal, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations, as called for in claim 6; and

d) A delay time adjusting circuit for adjusting a delay time of an input first periodic signal including an adjusting circuit for controlling a delaying circuit so that, when the phase of a predetermined rising edge is judged to be behind the phase of a first rising edge by a phase-detecting circuit, the delaying circuit delays the phase of an output second periodic signal until the phase of the predetermined rising edge and a phase of a second rising edge of an input first

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periodic signal match each other, the second rising edge being one period behind the first rising edge, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations, as called for in claim 7.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Linh M. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1749. The examiner can normally be reached on Alternate Fri, Monday - Thursday from 7:00 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy P. Callahan can be reached on (571) 272-1740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Linh M. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2816

LMN

